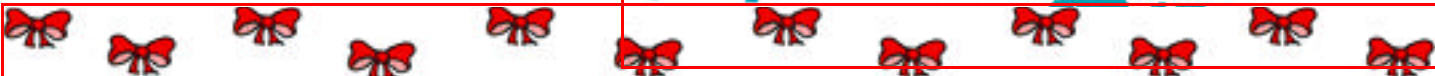


# THE COLORADO NRCS CONNECTION



655 Parfet Street Room 200A

Lakewood, CO 80215-5505

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## Insights & Highlights

by  
Allen Green



**T**he end of another year always brings moments of reflection. My most pleasant recent NRCS memory revolves around our all employee's meeting. I once again want to thank you for your participation and great attitude. I have heard many positive comments and can assure you that we won't wait another 10 years before gathering again.

During this time of year, some of you will be receiving some type of formal award or recognition. For that, I also congratulate you. I also, however, want to thank those of you who did not receive a formal award. This by no stretch of the imagination means that you have not gone above and beyond the call of duty. That seems to be the norm for the Colorado NRCS employee. Many of us do things that are not necessarily within our job descriptions that no one else sees and that we don't call attention to. We just do it. I am aware and I want to personally thank you.

It is that kind of dedication,

not only to the job but also to a job well done that keeps this organization in its leadership position. In many respects, 2004 will be no different than 2003. We will continue to receive more requests for assistance from our customers than we can provide. We will continue to strive to be driven by natural resource needs and not so much by programs while trying to meet nationally mandated goals. We will continue to maintain and strengthen partnerships as we realize the monumental task of conserving our privately owned lands could not be successfully accomplished without their support.

As we ready ourselves for the New Year and vehemently swear to stick with our resolutions this time, it's noteworthy to include in your annual "to do" list the need to stop and smell the roses from time to time; take time for your family and loved ones; take time for yourself; and what I consider to be most important, live in an atmosphere of appreciation. All too often we focus on the things we want but don't have and overlook the wonderful gifts we have been given.

Have a great holiday season and we'll see you next year.

## Zig Ziglar on:

### **Harnessing The Best Motivator: The Golden Rule**

The purest and most effective of all motives is the Golden Rule: **Treat other people the way you want to be treated.** You do so not because you're going to get benefits yourself, but because it is the right thing to do and because you want to do it. *I always express the Golden Rule in a slightly different way--namely, that you can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.*

Understanding that this rule is a philosophy and not a tactic is extremely important. You don't say or do something for someone else with the expectation of their returning the favor. Doing a favor in order to get a favor is manipulation, and manipulation simply doesn't

*cont. on page 6*

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# EQIP

## Program Helps Ranchers in Time of Need

By Jerry D. Schwien



*"I'm pleased with the condition of his range. With the intensive grazing system, we've seen regrowth of the key grasses..."*

Jerry Winford and son Justin operate a 24,000-acre ranch six miles north of Branson, Colorado. The drought of 2002 caused them to sell and move cattle like it did many ranchers. However, a long-time adherence to Holistic Resource Management (HRM) and taking advantage of federal dollars for good range management through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allowed the Winfords to hang on to most of their cow herd.

"We received \$2 per acre from NRCS to rotate and rest our pastures," says Winford. "This allowed us to rent pasture and move our cows to Emporia, Kansas. It was important to save our herd. We have over 25 years of genetics in our Red Angus cows," says Winford.

"Renting pasture was costly, \$26 per cow per month, but by doing so we managed to keep 250 cows of our 450 cow/calf herd," says Winford. He is bringing back 50 yearling heifers into his herd this fall. They will calve, with the rest of his herd, in February.

"I feel we survived the drought as good as could be expected," he says. "We had real good growth on our grass this spring. It came back better than I expected."

Winford has utilized conservation practices for years. He installed 25 to 30 miles of pipeline for water delivery, under the Great Plains Conservation Program. Wells, water tanks, ponds, and cross fencing are other practices on his rangeland. The Winfords also planted a tree windbreak to protect their ranch house and buildings.

Cliff Johnston, who ranches near Timpas, Colorado, southwest of La Junta, is another rancher who benefited from the NRCS cost-share program.

"We received the maximum (\$25,000) to set up an inten-

sive rotation program, 30 days on and then rest a pasture for 70-75 days," says Johnston.

"That money and more went into operating costs to help us hang onto some of our herd," he said. "We spent \$75,000-\$80,000 for feed last year. Our feed bill was three times what is normal. We were caking three pounds per animal a day plus hay, which costs us \$150 a ton."

Johnston still had to cut his herd in half from 540 cows/calves down to 270 over the past three years. Johnston ranches 15,000 deeded acres, plus leases from the Forest Service on the Comanche grasslands. He also has summer pastures in South Park.

Wade Sigler, Farm Bill technician with the East Otero and Olney-Boone Conservation Districts in Rocky Ford, helped implement the intensive rotation grazing system and has been monitoring grass recovery on the Johnston ranch. "I'm pleased with the condition of his range. With the intensive grazing system, we've seen regrowth of the key grasses (blue grama, galleta, sacaton and needlegrass)," says Sigler.



# Area Office News

## Area One

**Glenwood Springs Field**  
Office and several Conservation  
Districts are partnering with  
Colorado Foundation for  
Agriculture and Colorado

- The understanding of how high application rates of PAM on canals and ponds create an inverse effect on infiltration compared with low application rates used in furrow
- How to develop reliable, quantitative techniques to measure application effectiveness and life





and long term contracting.

**Terri Skadeland**, State Biologist, presented wildlife modules including outdoors onsite training on Elk and Trout modules. **Gary Finstad**, Resource Conservationist, led discussion on changes to quality criteria and recent FOTG Technical Guide Notices. Several Area Staff also led discussions, including **Mike Petersen**, Area Water and Salinity Management Specialist on marketing and outreach, Holly Horner, Resource Conservationist, on Quality Assurance, **Roy Hall**, Area Conservationist on training and civil rights, and **Donna Goodsell**, Area Administrative Coordinator, on direct charge and timesheets.



**The Area 2 Staff and District Conservationists** conducted a meeting at Pingree Park northwest of Ft. Collins on October 7, 8, and 9th. The agenda included presentations by **Randy Randall**, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations on goals, progress, business plans and staffing, and **Tony Puga**, State Resource Conservationist for Programs, on cost lists, appeals,

**Area two recently held a Poisonous Plant Workshop.** The event was hosted by **Lana Pearson**, District Conservationist, Simla FO, **Cindy Gillmore**, District Conservationist, **Linda Pollick**, Soil Conservation Technician, and **Dan Nosal**, Range Management Specialist, all from the Castle Rock FO. Dr. Tony Knight, Poisonous Plant Specialist with CSU Veterinarian School, presented most of the day. **Dan Nosal** also talked about Grazing Management and local land resources and production. 43 local landowners attended the session.

#### **The Castle Rock Field Office**

hosted a Small Acreage Workshop and Well Water Rights for over 200 landowners in Castle Rock, CO. The participants had the option of attending one or the other. **Harvey Sprock**, Area Range Conservationist, presented the Small Acreage Workshop covering plant requirements, production, animal needs, stocking rates, grazing systems, and reclamation

with landowners. **Cindy Gillmore** and **Linda Pollick** presented How to Obtain Well Water Rights and assisted landowners with paperwork and led discussions.

**Mike Petersen**, Area Water and Salinity Management Specialist, gave a presentation on the effectiveness of Strip-Tillage Systems in irrigated cropland to 83 growers, consultants, and fertilizer dealers in Burlington, Colorado at the Boy Scouts of America Center. Growers came from far western Kansas and eastern Colorado to hear about roots, fertility management, water conservation under limited irrigation wells, all maximized by adopting strip till system technology

## Area Three

#### **Area 3 suffered the loss**

of two well-known individuals during November. **Bob Appel**, Southeast Colorado RC&D

Coordinator, passed away on November 16. **Rex Clark**, a founding member of the Prairie Conservation District (formerly Soil Conservation District), passed away on November 14. The following are excerpts from their obituaries.

#### **Robert Wescott Appel**



Robert Wescott Appel was born in Washington, D.C. and passed away in Colorado Springs, Colo. at Memorial Hospital. He worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 20 years and his most recent position was the Resource Conservation District (RC&D) coordinator for the Southeast Colorado RC&D based in Lamar.

A brother, Andrew Appel preceded Appel in death. His wife Nancy Appel of the family home; daughters Julie Appel, Ardmore, Okla., and Katie Appel, Las Animas, survive him. Also surviving him are his parents, brothers, and a sister as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



## Rex Clark

Rex Clark was born on the family homestead in Kim, Colo. He passed away in Hugo. Clark was a founding member of the Prairie Soil Conservation District in 1964 and chairman of the board for 39 years. Among those accomplishments, Clark was also a Lincoln County Commissioner, and a member of the Lincoln County Stockman, the Farm Bureau, and a 4-H leader. He is survived by his wife Betty of Karval, Colo., two daughters, two sons, three sisters, one brother, numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



## The Lamar field office con-

ducted a conservation tour for several sixth graders from three different schools. They visited the Ragsdale Farms to discuss and see first-hand various conservation practices. Landowners John and Jane Stulp hosted the tour, which was sponsored by the Prowers CD Board. In addition to conservation practices, the students were also interested in chemical use to control weeds and pests on crops. They also learned some economics behind the world of agriculture in the

illustration that demonstrated how much of the cost of a loaf of bread is returned to the farmer who produced the wheat. Other Area 3 offices also hosted conservation tours, including Hugo.



Area 3 NRCsers assisted with the judging of various FFA range contests. **Susan Hansen**, Soil Conservationist, and **Karen Conrad**, District Conservationist, both from the Lamar FO, participated in the Lamar contest. **Ben Berlinger**, Area Range Management Specialist, La Junta AO, **Bob Klinkerman**, Soil Conservationist, and **Wade Sigler**, multi district employee, Rocky Ford FO, helped at the Fowler contest. **Berlinger** and **Sally Santala**, Conservation District Clerk, **Casey Veatch**, Private Land Wildlife Biologist, and **Mike Slack**, Soil Conservation Technician, Flagler FO, worked at the Eastern Colorado State Contest held in Flagler. Sponsors included the Burlington, Cope, Agate, Cheyenne, Flagler and El Paso Conservation Districts. High Plains Bank, Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management cosponsored the competition.

**Lorenz Sutherland**, Area Resource Conservationist, La Junta AO, and **Mike Petersen**, Greeley AO, are members of the national team that is revising the Saline and Sodic Soils Course. The team recently met in Riverside, CA. It hopes to have a pilot class sometime next spring

or summer.

State leaders recently toured the Bosque del Oso Wildlife Area west of Trinidad. They learned about the forest management strategy for the 30,000-acre wildlife area. **Kenn Lutz**, District Conservationist, Trinidad FO, has been an advisory member on the Bosque del Oso Wildlife Area board since its

# Area Four



## Inception.

Education is very important to the San Luis Valley Conservation Districts. For almost 15 years, the Districts of the San Luis Valley have supported an education specialist to provide conservation education to the San Luis Valley community and to promote stewardship of our natural resources. For over two years now, **Angie Graber** has held the position and each year the demand for her programs increases. In 2002, over 3,600 people were reached and the numbers are climbing even higher for 2003.

The main focus of the position is to educate youth throughout San Luis Valley schools on conserva-





tion issues. This is accomplished thru developing educational materials and programs centered on conservation and by leading 'in-the-field' educational trips for youth. In addition, a great

deal of time is spent coordinating the Colorado Association of Conservation District's 6th grade conservation poster contest in the San Luis Valley, as well as the Soil & Water and Range sections of the Beaver Creek Junior Natural Resources Camp.

Examples of the educational programs that are offered include

field to table tours, river study and water quality trips, tree plantings (wind-breaks/living snow fence), conservation tours, ground water model presentations, and wetland tours. This time of year schools are requesting educational programs that deal with snow. Snow surveys and water forecasting are taught by utilizing both a PowerPoint presentation and by taking the class into the field to measure snowpack. The density of the snow is calculated and from that information the students are able to determine the amount of water in the snow. Youth also learn the importance of snow as a resource and how crucial spring runoff from the mountains is for providing both surface water and ground water recharge to the San Luis Valley.

In addition to the educational responsibilities in the surrounding schools, there is an emphasis on working with the public. Outreach is achieved by attending community events, working with the Environmental and Conservation Education Council, a group in the San Luis Valley that strives to incorporate conservation education in surrounding schools, judging conservation projects at local science fairs, and taking pictures and writing press releases for the Conservation Districts.

This position is very unique and benefits from the support of many entities. Each year, the five Conservation Districts of the San Luis Valley assist with the position, as well as the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, the Alamosa, Saguache and Conejos County Commissioners, the San Luis Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Many thanks to all of these sponsors for making conservation education a priority in the San Luis Valley!



## Zig Ziglar Con't.

work. Eventually, the victim of your manipulation feels deeply resentful and avoids you at all costs.

Several years ago I injured my knee while bowling and was left with a noticeable limp for several days. The night after my accident I spoke in Omaha, Nebraska. After my introduction I went hobbling out on stage. The master of ceremonies put the microphone on me, and I could almost hear the audience thinking, "Look at how Zig is limping! He's hurt, but bless his heart, I bet he's going to do the very best he can!" Oh, I knew that I had the complete attention and sympathy of that audience! I don't understand the therapeutic value of having a microphone attached to me, but my knee quit hurting when the microphone went on. For the next 60 minutes, I was up and down, stooping, squatting, entertaining, pleading, and instructing. I felt no pain and didn't limp during those 60 minutes. However, the moment I took off the mike and stepped down from the stage, my knee gave way and I fell.

What happened is simple: For 60 minutes, I concentrated on the audience. The instant I took the microphone off, I stopped thinking about my audience; when I started thinking about myself again, I fell.

The message is clear. When you direct your motivation toward benefiting others, you're more effective than when you're thinking only about yourself. I felt good when I was concentrating on others; I fell when I turned my thoughts to myself. This is another way of saying, 'You can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.' . . . **Adapted from Zig's best-selling book *Success For Dummies*.**

## A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS

### Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Colorado State Conservation Board

# S ACTIO B



**Robert Zebroski**  
Director

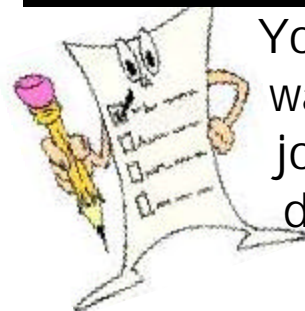
- ◆ Eight districts conducted successful elections to remove term limits: Colorado First, Routt County, Turkey Creek, South Pueblo County, Jefferson, West Greeley, Washington County, and Boulder Valley.
- ◆ Assistance continues to be provided to a number of districts whose long-range programs will expire on December 31, 2003. The State Board will have a number of these to review and approve at the November meeting and the balance will be presented to the Board in January.
- ◆ The Jefferson Conservation District is considering the possibility of sponsoring a new Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) area, which would cover the Front Range from

Douglas County to Larimer County. This is the last remaining area in the State not covered by a RC&D area.

- ◆ Carl Zimmerman, Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) employee, has been working with the Delta FO and the North Fork River Improvement Association to prepare a proposal requesting discretionary dollars from the Basin Parallel Program to develop a wildlife project.
- ◆ Carl and three District Employees attended an OSHA Safety Training conducted for BLM and USFS employees. Carl will be developing a safety training program for the new Forum position on the Western Slope.
- ◆ We are in the process of developing position descriptions for 5 new positions for the Salinity Basin Program. These new staff positions will be in each of the four salinity offices.



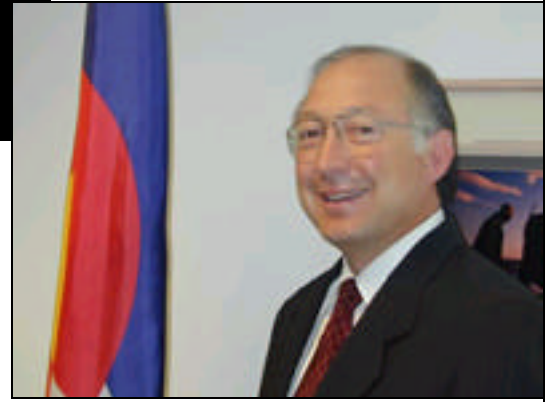
## Up-a nd Coming



You may  
want to  
jot this  
down!

- NP Leadership Meeting** ----Dec. 17-19
- SO Awards Luncheon** -----Dec. 18
- Christmas Day** -----Dec. 25
- Holiday Leave** -----Dec. 26
- Media Snow Survey** -----Dec. 31
- New Year's Day** -----Jan. 1
- AC/State Staff Mtg.** -----Jan 13-15
- MLK B-Day** -----Jan. 19
- CACD Board Mtg.** -----Jan. 21-22
- SRM Mtg.** -----Jan. 24-30
- ARC/GIS Training** -----Jan. 27-29
- Nat'l Cattlemen's Beef Training**-----Jan. 28
- NACD Annual Mtg.** -----Feb. 1-6
- SO Interpersonal Skills Training** -----Feb 10-12
- Pres. Lincoln's B-Day** -----Feb. 12
- Valentine's Day** -----Feb. 14
- President's Day** -----Feb. 16
- CO. Ag Outlook Forum** ----Feb. 19
- FFA Hall of Fame**-----Feb. 19

## 2003 CACD Annual Conference Attracted Colorado's Key Political Figures



The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) held its 59th Annual Meeting, November 17-20, at the Wyndham Hotel in Colorado Springs. Some 230 Conservation District Supervisors and guests were in attendance.

CACD works with private farm and ranch landowners and, increasingly, small ranchette owners and other suburban developments to assist in the wise use and proper management of natural resources.

During a keynote presentation, Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, asked Conservationists to support Colorado's planned water development. He told the group that Colorado must be realistic in moving ahead with water development.

*"Water issues are much more complicated than passing a state referendum," said Salazar. "I believe we must honor and protect our river compacts. We need additional storage, and we address that in three ways."*

Salazar said that we should fix our present reservoirs, enlarge existing reservoirs, and study new storage sites which the State Water Conservation Board is currently researching.

Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs also spoke to the group. He discussed Colorado water law. *"There's nothing like wet water,"* said Hobbs. *"Last year's drought was crunch time for Colorado. The value of reservoir storage showed up like gold."*

Hobbs went on to say, *"Colorado's reservoirs can store up to 16 million acre feet of water. We have to deliver 10 million acre feet out of state. Last year our rivers and streams delivered only 4 million acre feet. So we lived on 6 million acre feet of storage."*

***"Water issues are much more complicated than passing a state referendum..."***

### Rectors Honored as Conservation Ranchers of the Year

Andy and Joan Rector of the Agate Conservation District were honored as Colorado's 2003 Conservation Ranch Family of the Year at the CACD annual meeting. The Rectors have been cooperators of the Agate Conservation District since 1959. They operate approximately 19,000 acres with help from their sons Larry and Jerrell and their families.

Triple R Farms consists of 12,000 acres of rangeland, 500 acres hayland, and 6,500 acres of cropland. The Rectors practice a wheat/feed/sunflower/fallow cropping sequence with proper residue use for erosion control. They use proper grazing management on their rangeland.

The Rectors have installed over 80,000 feet of terraces and almost 14,000 feet of diversions in rangeland and cropland to help control water erosion.

### Swifts Named Conservation Farmers of the Year

Dean and Pattie Swift farm and operate a seed company on 1,800 acres in Costilla and they were honored by CACD as Colorado's 2003 Conservation Farmers of the Year. Dean and Pattie began their operation in 1975.

Dean's goal is to have a successful farming operation producing reclamation seeds with as little water use as possible, while preventing soil and water loss and building soil productivity with organic matter and compost. He also provides habitat for wildlife.

Swift has also done extensive work with the Partners for Wildlife program in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. Dean has about 100 acres of wetlands on his property and has built dykes as well as other water control structures to develop shallow wetlands for ducks and other wildlife.



# NATIONALLY SPEAKING

## Veneman Provides Year-End Update On Key Issue

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said that farm income and agricultural exports should stay strong in 2004, and consumer prices are expected to remain steady.

*"We expect farm income and exports to remain strong into 2004,"* Veneman said today during remarks at the Farm Journal Forum. During her remarks to an audience of food and agriculture leaders, Secretary Veneman said that net cash farm income in 2003 will be at a record high, rebounding sharply from 2002 and above long-term averages.

During her speech, Secretary Veneman also highlighted key agricultural issues being addressed by the Bush Administration, including:

- **Passage of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.** "The President's Healthy Forests Initiative and the supporting legislation will improve our ability to make our Nation's forests less vulnerable to catastrophic fires," Veneman said.
- **Timely and efficient implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill.** "Timely and efficient implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill has been a contributing factor to

the brighter income picture. Government payments will total about \$19.7 billion in 2003," Veneman said.

*"USDA has implemented all the major commodity program provisions under the farm bill and we did it in conjunction with implementing major disaster relief."*

- **Helped the Nation meet energy needs.**
- **Enhanced meat and poultry safety.**
- **Address growing public health issues of obesity.** Aggressively responded to the single case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Canada.
- **Hosted a Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Science and Technology to focus on the use of agricultural technology in reducing global hunger.**
- **Working to expand markets for American agriculture.** Received first ever USDA clean audit as part of the President's Management Agenda.
- **Promoting 'E Government.**



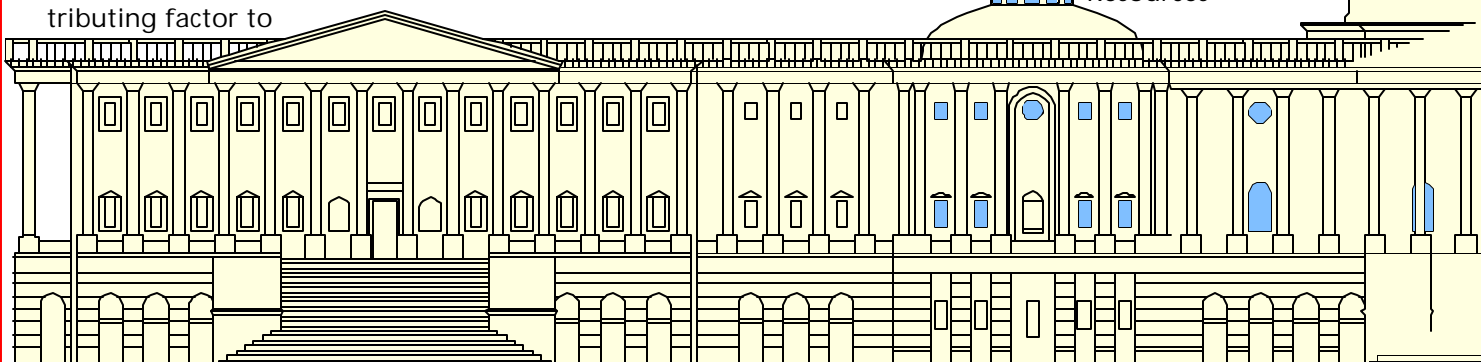
## USDA Requests Public Comments on Emergency Watershed Protection Program



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight announced that a notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) has been released.

*"This program has helped countless communities recover from natural disasters. Emergency conservation measures help reduce the threat of injury, loss of life or devastating property damage should a subsequent disaster occur,"* said Knight. *"The proposed changes will improve the effectiveness of USDA's response to natural disasters."*

The Natural Resources



Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance through EWP to help remove threats to life and property that remain in the nation's watersheds in the aftermath of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. Funds typically are provided through Congressional emergency supplemental appropriations and are used for such measures as debris removal, streambank stabilization, revegetation, purchase of floodplain easements, and repair of water-control structures and public infrastructure.

## NRCS Revises Technical Standards and Requests Comments

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight announced that the agency has issued five new or revised conservation practice standards that provide guidance for applying conservation technology on the land.

*"Conservation practice standards provide criteria for conservation districts, technical service providers, and others who offer conservation assistance to provide technically sound*

*practices, on the ground, to our customers,"* said Knight. Currently, NRCS has 166 conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

## USDA Awards More Than \$10 Million In Grants To 18 1890 Land-Grant Institutions And Tuskegee University

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that more than \$10 million in capacity building grants have been awarded to the 18 historically black land-grant institutions, also known as 1890 institutions, and Tuskegee University.

*"Launched in 1990, this is the only federal program targeted specifically toward improving the quality of programs in the food and agricultural sciences at historically black land-grant institutions,"* Veneman said.

*"The program focuses on advancing cultural diversity in the scientific and professional workforce by attracting and educating more students from under-represented groups."*

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Vernon Parker, speaking today at Tuskegee University, said, *"The program strengthens the links among the 1890 institutions, other colleges and universities, USDA, and private industry, while improving*

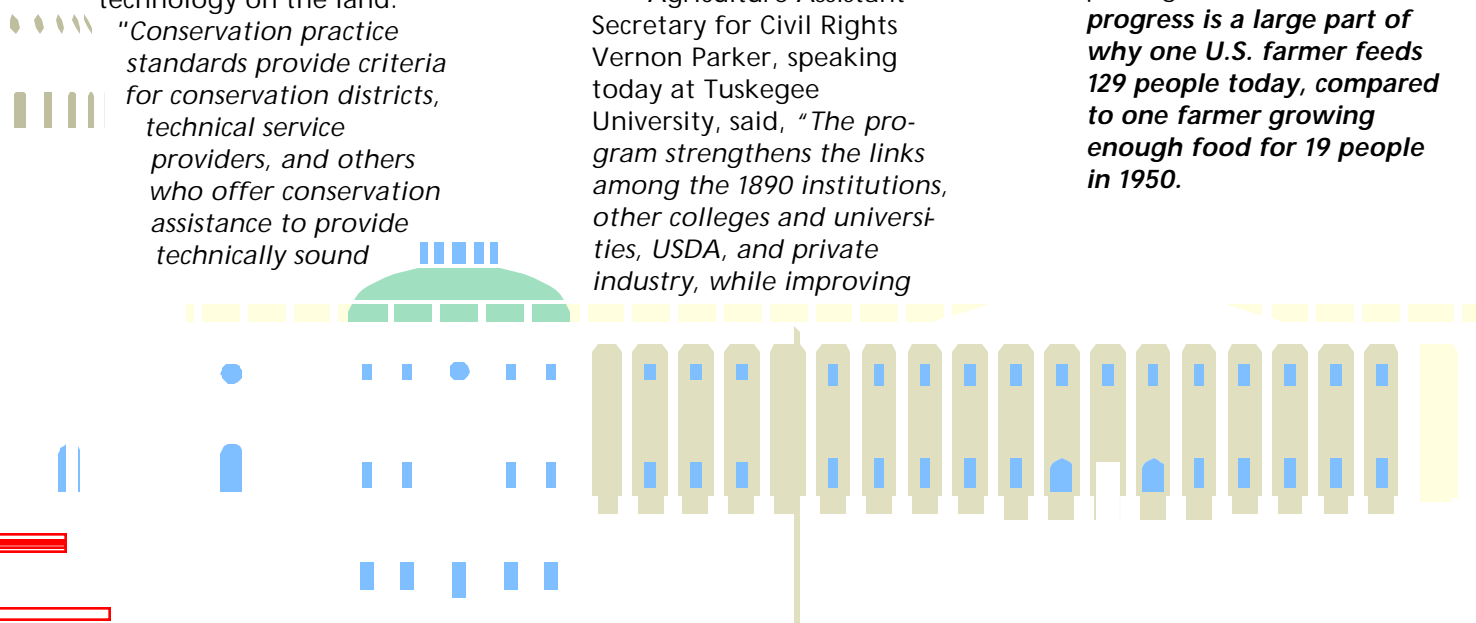
*the quality of teaching and research programs at the 1890 Institutions. This teaching grant will help educate quality professionals for the field of agriculture."*

## Veneman Marks 50TH Anniversary Of ARS

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

*"At any given moment, scientists from the Agricultural Research Service are working on 1,000 different projects across a broad range of applications for our food and agriculture systems,"* Veneman said. *"The scientific discoveries that have come from ARS have enabled us to increase our agricultural productivity, enhance food safety and improve our environment."*

**ARS developed the Universal Soil Loss Equation** and its subsequent revisions, helping farmers and other land users prevent millions of tons of soil from being lost to erosion while preserving the soil's ability to support agriculture. ***Research progress is a large part of why one U.S. farmer feeds 129 people today, compared to one farmer growing enough food for 19 people in 1950.***



# An International Exchange of Knowledge Between NRCS and Israel

by Petra Barnes, State PAS



**L-R** - Paul Ginsberg, Iris Bernstein, Adi Naali, Tony Puga, Shane Briggs, C.W. Scott, Ed Schmal, and Ag. Operator - (See titles within article)

The technical experts from USDA's Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently shared their intimate knowledge of wetland restoration and preservation with three international

visitors. The three Israelis met with NRCS personnel to gain insight into our Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the benefits of its recommended practices.

Tony Puga, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Lakewood, CO. escorted the group to various locations, illustrating

the diversity of program as well as the diverse customer base that utilizes the program. *"This is one of our most environmentally beneficial programs,"* Puga states. *"Finding landowners who are sold on it isn't difficult. They are quite proud of their enrollment and are more than willing to share their experiences."*

*"The knowledge base is vast and the work you're doing is quite exciting,"* says Paul Ginsberg, Soil Conservation and Forest Management Planner for Israel's Northern Region. *"In addition to learning about various practices and how each practice*

*works and affects an entire operation, it's also interesting to note the similarities in how you go about conducting the business of agriculture."*

During the tour Ginsberg, Iris Bernstein, and Adi Naali (the two additional spectators) visited with two ag. operators and two NRCS field employees, C.W. Scott and Dawn Jackson, both NRCS District Conservationists. Scott escorted the trio to the ag. operators in an effort to provide them the opportunity to get the landowner's perspective of WRP. Jackson shared details of a large scale collaborative WRP project involving numerous landowners within her area.

In addition to NRCS personnel, Ed Schmal, Private Land Wildlife Biologist, and Shane Briggs, Colorado Division of Wildlife's Farm Bill Coordinator, were also in attendance. They shared with the group the collaborative spirit within various environmental and agricultural agencies and organizations.

*"That is probably what I'm most impressed with,"* Ginsberg goes on to say. *"The level of cooperation between agencies is high."* Iris Bernstein is a Planning Department Director and Adi Naali is a CSU graduate student on a one-year detail from Israel.

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*"That is probably what I'm most impressed with. The level of cooperation between agencies is high."*

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